

W5YI

Nation's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter

REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

Fred Maia, W5YI, Editor, P.O. Box 565101, Dallas, TX 75356-5101
Tel. 817-461-6443 Electronic mail: fmaia@internetMCI.com

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DAYTON HAMVENTION HELD MAY 17, 18, 19

This was the first year that the Dayton HamVention was not held the last weekend in April. A change was made to the third weekend in May due to a long conflict with University of Dayton graduation. The threatening weather held off and the convention was generally well attended. Attendance estimates ranged from 30,000 to 35,000. General Chairman Ken Allen, KB8KE and his many committees did an outstanding job. The Governor of Ohio, County Commissioners and the Mayor of Dayton proclaimed May 13-19 as Amateur Radio Week.

As always, there were plenty of hospitality rooms, "get-togethers" and dinner meetings held after exhibit hours in the various downtown and outlying hotels. The flea market got going at the crack of dawn (6:00 a.m.) and covered some 24 acres!

The Grand Banquet held Saturday evening had a sellout crowd of 900 ...less than usual due to the unavailability of the larger ballroom at the Dayton Convention Center. Award winners: Bill Tynan, W3XO, John Kraus, W8JK and Bill Orr, W6SAI were honored. Banquet speaker, Dr. Paul Shuch, N6TX (an electronics professor at the Pennsylvania College of Technology) told about his search for intelligent life in space. Shuch is Executive Director of the SETI League, Inc., a non-profit group set up to support the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence. The major banquet and Hamvention door prizes were donated by ICOM America, Yaesu, Japan Radio Co., and Alinco.

FCC Forum held Sunday morning, May 19.

John B. Johnston, W3BE (who oversees amateur radio in the FCC's Washington, DC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau) started by saying that the previous year was a busy one for the Commission.

"The Telecommunications Act of 1996 was enacted. We held some spectrum auctions. Electronic filing by your VECs has become the standard. Some of the VECs are electronically filing applications directly from the exam room so that you can get on the air within a few hours. Automatic renewal notification came on-line and licensing of club stations was resumed. Your access to the 219-220 MHz band was affirmed. You came up with a novel approach to the newer digital modes.

"We initiated a Notice of Proposed Rule Making for your comments on various and sundry items. There was the vanity call sign system.

License examination administrative changes

"The TeleCom Act eliminated two unpopular requirements of your VEC system. First, the law prohibited publishers and manufacturers and their employees from being VEs. The purpose probably was to prevent the appearance of favoritism toward examinees who buy certain manuals or equipment.

"All of your exams, however are drawn from the same pools. Each exam is administered by three VEs and coordinated by one of your VECs. It is highly unlikely that anyone could unfairly benefit.

"The most controversial unintended consequence was to prohibit instructors from administering license

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examinations when they distributed manuals to their students.

"Secondly, your VEs had to keep records of their expenses and to annually certify them. Many of your VEs forwent reimbursement rather than go to all of that trouble. The maximum allowable examination reimbursement fee of \$6.07 should be enough to keep your expenses necessary and prudent.

Digital communications

"To many people, one of the most astounding aspects of amateur radio is that the way has cleared for you to communicate with other hams in every country of the world. There are some conditions in the international Radio Regulations that are necessary to make this possible. One is '...that transmissions between amateur stations in different countries be in plain language.' Your rules, therefore, prohibits transmitting in codes or ciphers intended to obscure the meaning.

"As digital communications have evolved over the years, there have been a number of accommodations made in the rules in order to satisfy to those conditions. First, there was the Baudot code for RTTY. There was an international standard that could be specified in the rules. The rationale being that because there is a standard, then messages in Baudot are in a plain language.

"Next came ASCII. Again there was an international standard that the rules could specify. Then came AMTOR. Strictly speaking, there is no international standard for AMTOR, but it is based on an international standard that can be cited.

"Around this time, you were able to obtain personal computers and some of you started developing your own digital codes. You got around the international agreements by using your codes in domestic communications only. You used the shorter wavelength bands where international communication is unlikely (1.25 m).

"Paul Rinaldo [W4RI, ARRL Tech Manager] pointed out that some of you were concerned about the propriety of using the new codes on the HF bands because your rules specified only Baudot, ASCII, and AMTOR. So, the League worked with the developers of CLOVER, G-TOR, and PacTOR codes to document the technical characteristics so there would be standards to reference in the rules. Now they authorize your stations to use any digital code that has had its technical characteristics documented.

RM-8737 is a petition from the League. It wants to expand the types of spread spectrum transmissions that are authorized.

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WT95-57

"The National Conference of VECs wants recognition for your session managers. The League wants the eligibility for a club station license to be increased to four members. Currently, only two are required. Each of you may hold only one, but only one, station license having only one call sign.

"When you append a self-assigned indicator to your call sign, the rules require that it come after your call sign. Some of you want to append it to the front. The FCC proposed all possible combinations.

"You had asked that we reserve a block of 750 one-by-one call signs for temporary use by your special event stations. This item also proposed that your VEs give exam credit to form-

er amateur operators. We have under consideration your 27 comments.

International Amateur Radio Permit

"RM-8677 is another petition from the league. This one is to implement the *Inter-American Convention on an International Amateur Radio Permit*. CITEL is a component of the *Organization of American States*. It is developing a mechanism modeled after the triple AAA's International Driver's Permit that would also provide for reciprocal operation.

"Instead of obtaining a reciprocal operating permit from the FCC in order to operate in the U.S., citizens of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay would obtain an IARP in their home country. Currently, we issue about 125 reciprocal permits annually to hams from these countries.

"The League is the U.S. member organization of the IARU. The ARRL has offered its services to the Department of State to issue the IARPs to those of you planning on traveling to those countries.

Vanity call signs...

"Most of the good unassigned call signs were those of hams no longer with us. These are the very ones that those of you who have worked hard for your Extra want to get. You told us that a first-come-first-served system would be fair, but you want some linkage between the sequential and the vanity systems. You want former holders to have first crack at their old call signs. You want close relatives of former holders now deceased to have first crack at those call signs.

"You want Extras to reach into the call sign cookie jar before Advanced. You want Advanced to go before Generals, Techs and Novices. You want the club to which the deceased ham belonged to be able to get a jump on the call sign before other hams.

The purpose of Gate 1(A) is a short-term priority for old-line club stations to get the call signs of deceased members. The club must have held a license on March 24, 1995, the date the FCC resumed licensing new club stations.

That date was picked so that individuals would not form clubs merely to gain early access to the good call signs. Club trustees can still apply for call signs, *in memoriam*, when the gates open for their class of operator license.

"The order of selection is:

- 1) Former holders [Gate 1];
- 2) Close relatives of deceased former holders [Gate 1];
- 3) Clubs of the deceased former holders, with close relative's approval [Gate 1(A)];
- 4) Amateur Extra operators and club stations for which they are license trustees [Gate 2];
- 5) Advanced class operators and club stations for which they are license trustees [Gate 3];
- 6) All other operators and clubs [Gate 4].

"When you become a ham, the sequential system assigns your station a call sign according to the region of your mailing address and your license class. There are thirteen call sign regions. They have evolved from the nine Naval Districts as they existed early in this Century. In your comments, there was a call for a strict conformance to the regions so that you can

determine the location of the station.

"Both systems allow you to have a call sign corresponding to your class and mailing address. Unless you ask, your call sign is never changed regardless of where you move or upgrade. The choice is yours. Knowing your call sign, anyone can find your mailing address and operator class. The information is available in several formats.

"To find your options under the vanity system, there are several tools that you will need. The first is the current version of the Fact Sheet that describes the sequential system. It is PR-5000 #206 dated February 1995. [Copies of this form - and others - are available from the W5YI Office without charge. P.O. Box 565101, Dallas, TX 75356. Please include a large self-addressed stamped envelope.]

"The sequential system apportioned out the 15 million possible call sign combinations into four groups: Group A is for Amateur Extra; Group B is for Advanced; Group C is for Technician, Technician Plus, and General; and Group D is for Novice and clubs. The sequential system also designated certain prefix and numeral combinations for your thirteen regions. [Region 1 through 10 correspond to call sign district 1 through 0. Region 11 is Alaska, Region 12, Caribbean and Region 13 is Hawaii and Pacific areas.]

"You will need a copy of the licensee data base. You're going to search out those call signs that are not assigned. You want the latest version you can get. Several parties are downloading the data base and making it available. Any recent version may serve your purpose now. After the system gets rolling, however, the more recent the data base you are using, the more successful you will be. [The W5YI Group offers a custom made call sign availability computer disk for \$15.95.] There are over 700,000 listings. Of course, you'll be looking for the 14 million call signs that are not listed.

"You will need a FCC Form 610-V. That is the form that you use to request a vanity call sign. You mail it to our fee collection contractor:

**Federal Communications Commission
Amateur Vanity Call Sign Request
P.O. Box 358924
Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5924**

Include your check [payable to the FCC] for \$30.00.

"You are going to need Fact Sheet PR5000 Number 206-V. The current version is dated October 1995. It describes the procedures of the vanity system.

"A 'vanity call sign' is one that is selected from your list. Only primary stations and club stations are eligible. RACES and military recreation stations are not. On the Form 610-V, you list up to 25 call signs in order of your preference. Write those call signs as clearly as possible. Some of you are going to have to write a lot better than you have been on your applications.

"If the processor can't be sure of what you have written, they will skip down your list until they find one that can be read. You must give the exact prefix, numeral, and suffix for each call sign. The system only works with actual call signs. Do not use general terms such as 'Any call with my initials' or 'Any 1-by-2.'

"The application will be processed in the order they are received from the fee contractor. When that instant in time arrives for your application, the processor will key stroke the call signs

from your list -- one-by-one -- until there is a match with an assignable call sign for your operator class and the region of your mailing address.

"At that point, your current call sign is replaced with the vanity call sign. You can begin using it just as soon as it appears on the data base. Your vacated call sign will not become available for reassignment for two years. There are three exceptions to the two year eligibility policy. I'll explain that in a moment.

"Your class of operator license determines your eligibility for a call sign group:

Amateur Extra Class - Group A, B, C or D.

Advanced Class - Group B, C or D

General, Tech Plus or Technician Class - Group C or D

Novice Class - Group D.

"There is one exception to that which I'll explain at a more appropriate point.

"Your mailing address determines your eligibility for prefix. If your mailing address is anyplace where the U.S. Postal Service delivers mail, you are eligible for a call sign corresponding to any Region 1 through 10... W1, K2, etc. For a call sign in Region 11, 12 or 13, your mailing address must be at a place corresponding to the call sign requested.

"Again, the eligibility policies are:

- 1) A vacated call sign becomes assignable after two years;
- 2) Your operator class determines the call sign group: A, B, C or D;
- 3) Your mailing address determines the format and region number;

"Now about those three exceptions to the three policies. The first policy is for a former holder. For you, all three exceptions do apply:

- 1) You do not have to wait two years before applying for your old call sign;
- 2) You do not have to hold the operator class corresponding to the call sign group,
- 3) You do not have to have a mailing address in the region of the call sign.

"The second policy is for a close relative of the former holder, now deceased. Only two of the exceptions apply:

- 1) You do not have to wait the two years following death before applying for the call sign.
- 2) You do not have to have a mailing address in the region of the call sign.

A close relative, however, does have to hold the operator class corresponding to the call sign Group.

"Who are your close relatives? They are the same people to whom you cannot administer the examinations. They include your spouses, children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and in-laws.

"The third policy is for a club station that requests a call sign in memoriam. With the consent of a close relative a club station can obtain the call sign in memory of the deceased. This exception also applies to only two of the three policies:

- 1) The club does not have to wait two years following the death of the holder.
- 2) The club does not have to have a mailing address in the

region of the call sign. If the Dayton Amateur Radio Club can get written concurrence from a close relative of Smurdley, it can get that KH6 call sign.

"Gate 1(A) will be a special opportunity for an old-line radio club in which Smurdley was a member to request his old call sign in-memoriam. This is not open to these new clubs that have sprung up over the past year. The club must have held a license on March 24, 1995.

"The license trustee of a club making an in-memoriam request, however, does have to hold the operator class corresponding to the call sign Group.

"Now all of this is not going to start on day one. There will be a series of gates. Each gate will open the system to another group. If you file before your gate opens, your application will be dismissed. There will be a public notice announcing each gate.

"Gate 1 will open May 31st. It is to provide a short-term priority to former holders and, where the former holders are deceased, to their relatives who hold the necessary class of operator license.

"The former holder exceptions apply. If you once held a Group A call and you are now a codeless Technician, you are eligible to get it back. If you want the call sign of your deceased relative, you do not have to have a mailing address in the region. You do have to have the proper operator class.

"When the dust settles from Gate 1, Gate 1(A) will be opened. The exact opening date should be announced within the next couple of weeks. It is for your club to request in-memoriam the call signs of former members. For this gate, you club must have held a club station license grant on the day that issuing club station licenses resumed: March 24, 1995. If your club was licensed after that date, you will have to wait until your license trustee becomes eligible under a later gate.

"For an Extra, that opportunity arrives at Gate 2. Starting on that date, an Extra can apply for any assignable call sign from any group for the primary station of for the club station. An Extra Class trustee can also make a request in-memoriam for the club station.

"Starting with Gate 3, Advanced Class operators can start applying. The system opens to any class operator at Gate 4. That will be the end of the Gates. From then on, any amateur operator can request a vanity call sign.

"Now let's look at the answers to some interesting questions that we've actually received. The call signs that I'll mention are for example only. They have been altered to protect the identities of the questioners.

GATES

Q. When is Gate 1 going to open?

A. May 31st.

Q. When will Gate 1(A) open?

A. My guess is that Gate 1(A) should probably open about a month after Gate 1 opens. (Johnston also guessed that Gate 2 would open a month after than and that all gate would be open by this fall. This, of course, depends upon how many applications are submitted and how smoothly the system is working.]

Q. How can I be moved to the head of the line when the gate

for my license class opens?

A. Except for the former holder provisions, it is first-come, first-served. You can increase your chances by carefully making your selection of preferred call signs from those that are currently unassigned for your license class and mailing address.

Q. Can I mail my application to the bank the day before the gate opens and gamble on it arriving just after the gate opens?

A. That's up to you. There's no assurance that you will win.

Q. For which call signs am I eligible? I have never held another call sign and I don't have any dead relatives that were hams.

A. You are eligible for any unassigned call sign for your operator class. Unless your mailing address is in Alaska, Hawaii or Pacific or Caribbean Insular Areas, you cannot request a call sign designated for those places.

Q. Am I eligible for my former call sign KZ5XX that I had while I was in the Canal Zone?

A. Yes. You are considered a former holder although the license you formerly had was issued by the Department of Interior. The KZ5 series is now administered by the FCC.

FORMAT & PREFIX

Q. I am an Extra Class operator and my mailing address is Dayton, Ohio. What call sign prefix can I request.

A. Unless you are the former holder, or a close relative of the former holder, you can request Group A, B, C or D call signs for Regions 1 through 10. You will be eligible when Gate 2 opens.

Q. I am an Advanced Class operator and my mailing address is Agana, Guam. What call sign format and prefix can I request?

A. Unless you are the former holder, or a close relative of the former holder, you can request two letter suffix call signs having the prefix AH2, KH2, NH2, or WH2. You can also request three letter suffix call signs having the prefix KH2 or WH2. Further, you can also request Group B, C or D call signs for Regions 1 through 10. You will be eligible to file when Gate 3 opens.

Q. I am in the military overseas. My operator class is General. My mailing address is in APO New York, NY. What call sign format and prefix can I request?

A. Unless you are the former holder, or a close relative of the former holder, you can request Group C or D call signs for Regions 1 through 10. You will be eligible to file when Gate 4 opens.

MULTIPLE CALL SIGNS

Q. I want a vanity call sign but I also want to retain my present call sign. Is there some way that I can get a vanity call sign for my primary station and move my present call sign to a new club station?

A. That cannot be guaranteed. When you obtain a new call sign, you vacate your present call sign. Assuming that a former holder, or the relative of a former holder doesn't reclaim it, it goes into limbo for two years after which you, as a

club license trustee, and other eligibles can apply for it. If you die, however, your relative, or your club with the consent of your relative, can obtain the call sign immediately, provided they hold the proper class of operator license. You might also consider simply requesting the new vanity call sign for your club station.

- Q. My wife and I are both hams. We want to obtain call signs having the same suffix. Can we submit our applications stapled together?
- A. That might work, but they could become separated before they reach the processor's work station.
- Q. What if I obtain a vanity call sign, and then my wife applies listing 25 call signs having the same suffix?
- A. That should increase your chances. There may be other ways that might result in what you want to have happen.

PASSING ON CALL SIGNS

- Q. Is there any way that I can designate who gets my call sign after I die?
- A. No. That is a matter left to your close relatives.
- Q. Which relative has priority?
- A. The one whose application document arrives at the bank first.
- Q. Is there some way that I can get a vanity call sign for my primary station and my son get my current call sign?
- A. That cannot be guaranteed. When you obtain a new call sign, you vacate your present call sign. It also goes in limbo for two years after which your son and other eligibles can apply for it. If you die, however, he and your other relatives are eligible to apply for it immediately.
- Q. My deceased close relative had a call sign back in the 1920s that did not have a letter prefix (such as 3XX, for example). Can I get that call sign?
- A. No. Such call signs are not in the sequential system.
- Q. Those call signs were later given the prefix 'W.' Am I eligible for W3XX?
- A. You are eligible if your relative actually held call sign W3XX and it is otherwise assignable. Otherwise, no.
- Q. My best friend died recently. In his will, he stipulated that his Group C call sign should go to me. I am an Advanced Class operator.
- A. Because you are not a close relative of the deceased, you are not eligible to request the call sign until it becomes generally assignable two years following the person's death.
- Q. Do I have any other options?
- A. You could form a radio club and obtain a club station license with yourself as the license trustee. With the consent of a close relative, you could apply in-memoriam when Gate 3 opens.
- Q. I've held my call sign for over 50 years, and I can't bear the thought of it going to some new ham. Is there some way I can have it retired?
- A. No. [But a close family member could obtain an operator's license of the appropriate class and apply for your call immediately after death, never use it and continually renew it.]

- Q. I do not want to give up my present 1x3. My deceased father held a 1x3 and the family doesn't want it assigned to anyone else. Can we have it set aside or retired?
- A. No. You might consent to have your father's call sign assigned to a club station *in-memoriam*.
- Q. How soon does an expired call sign become available?
- A. Normally two years following license expiration, surrender, revocation, set aside, cancellation, voiding, or death of the grantee. Where the grantee dies, however, the call sign is assignable immediately to the primary station of a close relative and to a club station *in-memoriam*.

CLUB STATIONS

- Q. How many club station licenses can the same club hold?
- A. There is no limit.
- Q. Does this mean that one person can obtain a number of vanity call signs?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Is there a limit on the number of clubs for which the same amateur can be the trustee.
- A. No.
- Q. Does the mailing address for the club station trustee have to be the same as the mailing address for his or her primary station?
- A. No. They can be different.
- Q. We want to honor the memory of a former member of our club who is now deceased by obtaining his old call sign for our club station. How can we do this?
- A. Obtain a letter consenting to the assignment from a close relative of the deceased person. If your club station had a license grant as of March 24, 1995, your club station license trustee is eligible to apply beginning at Gate 1(A).
- Q. The former member we want to honor died less than two years ago. Are we still eligible to apply?
- A. Yes, provided your club station had a license grant as of March 24, 1995. Otherwise, you will have to wait until the Gate opens for your class of operator license.
- Q. Our club station did not receive a license grant until after March 24, 1995. How can we obtain the former call sign of a deceased member *in-memoriam* for our club station?
- A. If a person has been dead for at least two years, and if the license trustee is Amateur Extra Class, the application can be filed beginning with Gate 2. If Advanced Class, this application can be filed beginning with Gate 3. If any other class, the application can be filed when Gate 4 opens.
- Q. We want to honor the memory of a non-member of our club who is now deceased by obtaining his old call sign for our club station. How can we do this?
- A. If the person died more than two years ago, the call sign is assignable to the first eligible requestor. A club can apply starting at Gate 2 if the trustee is Amateur Extra Class, at Gate 3 if Advanced Class, or Gate 4 if any other class.
- Q. But the person just died. Do we have to wait two years?
- A. You do unless you obtain a letter from a close relative of the deceased consenting to the assignment.

AMATEUR RADIO IN THE 21ST CENTURY

ARRL Exec. VP Dave Sumner, K1ZZ recently furnished us with a copy of the Discussion Paper being circulated by the International Amateur Radio Union's *Future of the Amateur Service Committee* (FASC) to the various amateur radio societies of the world. The 20-page IARU document was prepared by a six person blue ribbon panel selected by IARU president, Dick Baldwin, W1RU.

The April 1996 Discussion Paper looks toward formulating the needs of the Amateur Services for the next century. The Committee consists of Chairman Michael Owen, VK3KI, and members: John Bazley G3HCT, Tom Atkins VE3CDM, Terry Carrell ZL3QL, Larry Price W4RA and David Sumner K1ZZ. In addition, Dick Baldwin, W1RU is an ex officio member of the Committee.

Background of the Discussion Paper

The World Radiocommunication Conference 1995 adopted the following resolution (Resolution GT PLEN-5) calling for the inclusion of the following item in the Preliminary Agenda for the 1999 World Radiocommunication Conference:

→ 2.2 Consideration of Article S25 concerning the amateur and amateur-satellite services" with a view to formulating appropriate changes (if any) to the Radio Regulations.

The IARU is therefore developing a policy in respect of that agenda item and the committee has been given the task of assisting the development of that policy. This Discussion Paper is the first step in that process. It provides a vehicle for debate by the amateur community and attempts to identify the relevant issues, provide the background, and offer some possible solutions. It does not express the final view of the Committee, any IARU region or the IARU itself.

The issues are complex ...and there may be more issues than first identified. That is why the FASC seeks as many responses as possible to the issues raised by the consideration of Article S25.

The section of the international Radio Regulations dealing with the amateur and amateur satellite services are to be found in Article S25. The Radio Regulations are part of a treaty between nations and do not of themselves impose obligations on amateurs. Instead they provide the guidelines to the various countries on how they are to regulate the amateur service. These conditions are:

- Communication between amateurs of different countries is to be prohibited if one country objects;
- Messages are to be limited to plain language, about technical or personal matters and of such unimportance that the use of a public communications system would not be justified;
- Communications on behalf of third parties is prohibited,

though the Article permits countries to make arrangements to allow such communications;

- Amateur licensees using frequencies below 30 MHz must have demonstrated an ability to send and receive Morse;
- Administrations shall take such measures as they think necessary to verify the operational and technical qualifications of amateurs;
- The maximum power of amateur stations is to be fixed by administrations, having regard to the operators' technical qualifications and the conditions under which the stations operate;
- All the general Radio Regulations apply to amateur stations, which shall be stable and free from spurious emissions;
- Amateur stations shall transmit their call signs at short intervals;
- The same provisions apply to the amateur satellite service; and
- Amateur space stations must have sufficient earth command stations and be fitted with devices so that harmful interference can be terminated.

What are the issues?

The FASC has identified several subjects on which they seek comments.

1) The definition of the "amateur service":

That definition has not been significantly changed since the first international regulation of radio. The FASC asks if it is still suitable?

FASC Recommendation: "The present definition is: S1.56 Amateur Service: A radiocommunication service for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication and technical investigations carried out by amateurs, that is, by duly authorized persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest.

"We are of the opinion that the definition of 'Amateur Service' in the present Regulations is entirely appropriate and that no change should be considered."

2) The banned country list:

Should the Radio Regulations leave it to administrations to prohibit or permit their amateurs to engage in international communications, or should the international Regulations themselves prohibit such communications if one country objects? Does it matter?

FASC Recommendation: "We suggest that this could be replaced by a provision that provides, in effect, that Article S25 does not oblige an administration to authorize amateur stations under its jurisdiction to engage in international communication except for distress and safety communication."

3) Resource for emergency communications:

Should Article S25 include a provision encouraging the amateur service to provide emergency communications? Does the prohibition of international communications on behalf of third parties inhibit the development of emergency communication nets? Is the ability of the amateur service to provide

emergency communications inhibited by the nature of the messages permitted to be transmitted by amateur stations? **FASC Recommendation:** "We are concerned that the prohibition of carrying messages on behalf of third parties and the restriction on what may be transmitted by an amateur station may work against the growth of the ability of the amateur service to provide emergency communications.

We are of the view that a change that could be considered is that S25.4 could be reversed, in the same way as S25.1 allows communications between amateur stations of different countries unless one of the countries concerned has notified that it objects.

We believe that a provision should be inserted into the Radio Regulations to encourage administrations to permit amateur stations they license to not only to transmit emergency messages, but to be prepared to do so.

4) Messages on behalf of a third party:

The FASC does not question the right of a nation to prohibit its amateurs from carrying messages on behalf of a third party. The Committee does, however, believe that any messages so carried must be non commercial and not carried for reward. They question whether or not the attitudes that existed when the international prohibition was included in the Regulations have changed and raise the question whether the prohibition is really consistent with the international use of store and forward techniques. Should the international prohibition remain in the Regulations? Would its removal enhance the ability of the amateur service to provide emergency communications?

FASC Recommendation: "Our tentative view is that what is loosely called 'third party' by amateurs, which does not include any commercial or paid messages, should not be prohibited by the international regulations. Certainly the removal of the prohibition would remove any doubt as to the legality of modes of international communication using store and forward techniques. It is appropriate to emphasize that this change would not in any way obligate an administration to permit its amateurs to conduct communications on behalf of third parties, international or otherwise."

5) Technical and operational qualifications:

The FASC believes that the technical and operational qualifications to be an amateur are fundamental to the privileges that are given to the amateur service. The appropriate prerequisites are essential to distinguish the amateur service from other use of the spectrum. However, the present Regulations do not set a "standard," but leave that to each administration.

If it is considered desirable that some standard be set, the FASC would not suggest an elaborate curriculum, rather the identification of basic topics on which knowledge should be demonstrated.

Should the Article set some standard for the technical and operational qualifications for the amateur service? How can this be made flexible? If a standard is "incorporated by reference," should the standard be mandatory?

FASC Recommendation: "It is of fundamental importance to administrations as well as to radio amateurs that the amateur service be limited to operators who are qualified both technically and operationally. Amateurs share the radio spectrum with a myriad of other radiocommunication services, and share their

relatively narrow bands with one another. They must be qualified to assume the responsibility for the safe installation and proper operation of their stations. They must possess the ability to intercommunicate with one another, to ensure that their equipment will not cause harmful interference to other services in normal operation, and to resolve such interference whenever it may arise. They must understand the obligations that arise from the privilege of operating radio transmitters."

Therefore, FASC believes that technical and operational topics should be identified which would still permitting each administration to set its own standard of knowledge of the specified topics.

6) Morse code:

The FASC does not question the value of Morse code as a means of communication, nor do they question the right of an administration to require its amateurs to demonstrate a skill in Morse code. At present, Morse code as a qualification is a treaty obligation covered in S25.5.

The FASC points out that it is dealing with guidelines that will govern the amateur service in the next century. It therefore asks, should testing the Morse code ability of certain amateur licensees be retained as a treaty obligation? If so, what are the reasons that administrations would find persuasive?

FASC Recommendation: "In 1994 the IARU CW Ad Hoc Committee concluded that it remains essential for radio amateurs using the bands below 30 MHz to be able to intercommunicate without regard to equipment or language barriers, to ensure the orderly shared use of a limited resource." It also observed that "...future technical developments may provide an alternative means for ensuring that amateur stations can intercommunicate, and that these new means could become sufficiently universal to obviate the present requirement."

While little has changed since 1994, "World Radiocommunication Conference agendas are very crowded. ...It is unrealistic to expect that Article S25, having been placed on the agenda for WRC-99, will again be reviewed at another conference in the foreseeable future. Any changes to Article S25 that may be desirable in the next decade or two, must be considered now. On that basis, the Committee has concluded that S25.5 should be removed as a treaty obligation of administrations."

7) International recognition of amateur licenses:

Many countries accept a home country driving license to allow visitors to drive in their country. Should an amateur be able to visit another country and during that visit be able to use his home country license? The FASC has examined the CEPT arrangements for Europe, and the CITEL arrangements for the Americas and suggest that Article S25 could include provisions encouraging such use.

Should the Article include a provision facilitating the international recognition of amateur licences of visiting amateurs? If so, would the prospects of the acceptance of such a provision be enhanced if the Article set a standard for the technical and operational qualifications of amateurs?

FASC Recommendation: The IARU has identified as an objective the global recognition of amateur licences to permit operation by an amateur in the course of a visit to another country.

The CEPT approach recognizes equivalent qualifications

from other administrations and CITEL has an International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) similar in concept and nature to the International Driving Permit.

"We consider that there is a need for the Radio Regulations to provide a basis for the global recognition of amateur licenses issued by all administrations to permit amateurs to operate while visiting."

8) The amateur satellite service:

The FASC has examined the definition of the amateur satellite service, and have a concern that the service is restricted to space stations on "earth satellites". We do not know whether that restriction could present a problem in the future. We have also looked at the measures to ensure that amateur satellites do not cause harmful interference.

Should the amateur service seek a change to the definition of "amateur satellite service"? Or, does the definition not matter? Should any other change to the provisions governing the amateur satellite service be sought?

FASC Recommendation: We suggest that the following change to the definition could be considered:

→ S1.57 Amateur-Satellite Service: A radiocommunication service using space stations on earth satellites for the same purposes as those of the amateur service.

Some may question is why is there a separate satellite service, rather than a single amateur service. The separate definition of the service may have the advantage that it puts beyond doubt the right of the amateur service to use space stations.

9) What amateur stations may transmit:

Current rules provide that amateur transmissions "shall be made in plain language and shall be limited to messages of a technical nature relating to tests and to remarks of a personal character for which, by reason of their unimportance, recourse to the public telecommunications service is not justified."

FASC Recommendation: The FASC believes that these provisions were first adopted over a concern for security and to protect government monopoly of communications. With the notable exception of the United States, most common carrier communications are government owned and controlled.

"We wonder, if that identification of policy objectives is correct, whether either objective is as important today. In particular, the traditional government monopoly of communications has shifted, and will no doubt continue to shift, to a deregulated and competitive market, in an increasing number of countries."

10) Other matters:

Are there other matters that are not included in Article S25 and should be addressed in the Article, or other changes to Article S25 that should be sought?

Send in your comments

The FASC wants "...the reasoned views of as many individuals and organizations as possible, whether in favor or not, in respect of the suggestions we make and in respect of matters that we have not raised." Please communicate to the Committee as follows:

Mail: IARU FASC
c/o IARU International Secretariat

P.O. Box 310905
Newington, CT 06131-0905 USA

FAX: +1 860 594-0259
IARU FASC, c/o IARU International Secretariat

E-mail: iaru@iaru.org
Subject: "To IARU FASC"

Things to consider when making comments:

Remember that the FASC is dealing with international regulation, that is regulation that exists by treaty between sovereign states. What is appropriate for national regulation may not be appropriate for treaty. The Radio Regulations, having the status of a treaty, must deal with principle, and provide the basic foundation for national regulation.

"We must be careful that whatever we propose cannot be seen by any member country of the ITU as an attempt to diminish sovereignty. The importance of sovereignty cannot be overstated," the FASC said.

The Radio Regulations should be simple. "We should avoid judging what amateur radio 'ought to be' by applying our own standards without having regard to the fact that there are differences throughout the world and we should have particular regard to the needs of the developing countries where the per capita amateur population is at present low. If we seek change we should, we think, look for improvement to make the amateur service more valuable and meaningful to those countries that presently encourage it, and more attractive to those that do not.

"We suggest that all involved in this process should attempt to take a global approach to the issues, trying to understand and accept differences, with a view to seeking change, if change is desirable, that will enhance amateur radio for the future and throughout the world.

"Unlike spectrum allocation issues, we are not in competition with other services. If we present a single world wide position, and we have sound and logical reasons for that position and that position is sensitive to the differing needs of the different countries, we have every prospect of that position being accepted."

A Possible Time Table

The FASC will develop the world wide position through an evolutionary process. "We do not believe that the IARU can develop policies to meet the needs of different administrations and the needs of amateurs throughout the world without a period of consultation."

This Discussion Paper was distributed on April 12, 1996 and the FASC would like comments and submissions by the end of June 1996. The Committee will prepare a Report by the end of July 1996 with recommendations to be considered by the Region 1 Conference in October 1996. A further Report will be prepared for the Region 3 Conference in 1997, and then repeat the process for the Region 2 Conference in 1998.

"We believe that it is essential that a final position and supporting material be adopted well before WRC-99, and the latest that can occur is immediately following the 1998 Region 2 Conference, so that the member societies and the regions are able to present the IARU position to their national telecommunications administrations.

W5YI REPORT

Nation's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter

Page #9

June 1, 1996

AMATEUR RADIO STATION CALL SIGNS

...sequentially issued as of the first of May 1996:

Radio District	Gp."A" Extra	Gp."B" Advan.	Gp."C" Tech/Gen	Gp."D" Novice
0 (*)	AB0BS	KI0CS	(****)	KB0WHV
1 (*)	AA1PY	KE1EO	N1XFI	KB1BXY
2 (*)	AB2AW	KG2GV	(****)	KB2YSX
3 (*)	AA3OF	KE3WL	N3XHP	KB3BQP
4 (*)	AE4TZ	KT4PM	(****)	KF4JEE
5 (*)	AC5HR	KK5ZR	(****)	KC5UHB
6 (*)	AC6UL	KQ6FX	(****)	KF6DMG
7 (*)	AB7QN	KJ7XJ	(****)	KD7AAC
8 (*)	AA8WV	KG8WW	(****)	KC8DNZ
9 (*)	AA9SA	KG9GG	(****)	KB9NNQ
N. Mariana	KH0Y	AH0AW	KH0EZ	WH0ABF
Guam	WH2T	AH2DB	KH2QF	WH2ANP
Johnston Is.	AH3D	AH3AD	KH3AG	WH3AAG
Midway Is.		AH4AA	KH4AG	WH4AAH
Hawaii	(**)	AH6OO	(****)	WH6DAW
Kure Is.			KH7AA	
Amer.Samoa	AH8O	AH8AH	KH8CT	WH8ABF
Wake W.Peale	AH9C	AH9AD	KH9AE	WH9AAI
Alaska	(**)	AL7QI	(****)	WL7CSZ
Virgin Is.	WP2X	KP2CJ	NP2JF	WP2AID
Puerto Rico	(**)	(***)	(****)	WP4NLY

* = All 1-by-2 & 2-by-1 call signs have been assigned.

** = All 2-by-1 call signs have been assigned.

*** = All KP4-by-2 call signs assigned in Puerto Rico.

**** = Group "C" (N-by-3) call signs have now run out in all but the 1st and 3rd call district.

[Source: FCC, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania]

AMATEUR JAMMER LOSES HAM TICKET FOR LIFE!

In what signals much tougher FCC enforcement handling of intentional interference complaints, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau has reached a settlement with Irvin J. Foret, of Metairie, LA, KB5UJD.

Under the terms of the settlement agreement, Foret will pay \$500 within 30 days to the U.S. treasury, submit his Technician Plus operator license for cancellation and refrain for the remainder of his life from applying for any FCC license. He is further precluded from participating in any amateur or CB radio communications, even as a third party. Foret also waived all future rights to seek reconsideration, review, appeal or to otherwise challenge or contest the settlement. In exchange, the FCC has agreed to end its investigation and prosecution of Foret.

Foret's amateur operator license was suspended on April 5th after being monitored by FCC engineers in December and January initiating transmissions which the FCC said "...constituted willful or malicious interference to the communications of other amateur radio stations."

Some of Foret's transmissions were termed "obscene or indecent" and included music which is prohibited by the rules. (Action by FCC, May 2, 1996)

EXTENDED COVERAGE HF HAM TRANSCEIVERS

On May 13, the FCC issued a Public Notice stating that it is concerned about the number of transceivers that are being imported as "supposedly" Amateur Radio Service (ARS) transceivers. These transceivers have extended frequency coverage making them capable of being operated in nearby bands allocated to other radio services such as the Private Land Mobile, Maritime, Auxiliary Broadcast, International Broadcasting, Citizens Band and U.S. Government radio services.

"Some of these transceivers are capable of using output powers or emission types which are not permitted for these radio services and some are capable of transmitting in the radio astronomy band where no two-way radiocommunications is permitted. Some manufacturers are promoting the sale of conversion kits, or have designed their transceivers such that they can easily be modified by the users, to extend the operating frequency range. In addition, so-called 'export' radios which are deliberately designed to facilitate this capability are also being imported and marketed," the Public Notice reads.

"Manufacturers, importers, vendors and users of these transceivers are reminded that transmitters intended for operation on frequencies allocated to any of the FCC authorized radio services listed above, except the ARS, must be type accepted by the Commission for the particular radio service(s) in which they are intended to operate prior to their importation, marketing or use."

The FCC also considers transceivers "as intended for use on other than ARS bands" when frequency conversions are facilitated by a very simple modification. It is a violation of Commission regulations to import, market or operate a transmitter designed or intended to operate on frequencies outside the ARS bands if it has not been issued an FCC equipment authorization.

"Violations of the Commission's regulations will subject manufacturers, importers, vendors and users of this equipment to appropriate criminal penalties ...including fines and/or imprisonment. In addition, the equipment can be seized by, and forfeited to, the government."

We saw Gary Hendrickson, W3DTN, at last weekend's Dayton HamVention. Gary is an engineer at the FCC Laboratory in Columbia, Maryland. I asked him what about the extended coverage capability afforded by many of the well known ham transceivers (such as those made by Yaesu, Icom, and Kenwood.) Gary said that these firms were not the ones that the FCC was going after.

Hendrickson said the government is primarily concerned with non-amateur radio equipment manufacturers - especially those making "10-meter" transceivers - who use the ARS equipment authorization exemption loop-hole as a method of illegally distributing equipment intended for other than amateur operation. Hendrickson can be reached at: 301/725-1585.

ARRL SOUNDS OFF ABOUT TAPR STA

The American Radio Relay League has filed comments with the FCC on the request of Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Corp. (TAPR) for Special Temporary Authority (STA) to experiment with spread spectrum emissions (see 5/15 W5YI Report).

TAPR and ARRL agree that there needs to be more, rather than less, spread spectrum experimentation in Amateur

Radio. The two organizations differ on which bands should be available to the experimenters.

ARRL endorsed the use of 219-220 MHz for the experiments, especially given the severe geographic restrictions on amateur use of that band. The restrictions are intended to protect maritime operations. Spread spectrum, ARRL said, would reduce the potential for interference and might allow amateurs to operate in closer proximity to maritime licensees than would otherwise be possible.

ARRL said that "the League has serious concerns with regard to the proposed use of other frequencies in the 6m, 2m and 1.25m bands." ARRL said it was "persuaded that spread spectrum emissions pose a significant interference potential to existing amateur operations in these bands" and noted that unlike 219-220 MHz, there is no geographic separation requirement that might protect narrowband users from interference. The FCC has not yet acted on the TAPR request.

FCC CREATES FAMILY RADIO SERVICE

Unlicensed Radios May Be Under Christmas Tree

The FCC has established the first new Citizens Band Radio Service since the 27 MHz CB was created. The Family Radio Service (FRS) is a category within CB. FRS will operate on channels overlapping the 462 and 467 MHz allocations of the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS), CB's predecessor.

The FRS culminates more than 20 years of attempts by FCC and industry to establish a new unlicensed personal radio service: the Class E CB and Personal Emergency Locator Transmitter Service (PELTS) at 220 MHz, the Personal Radio Communications Service (PRCS) at 800 MHz and the Consumer Radio Service (CRS) at 460 MHz. The FCC even considered placing a new CB type service in the 902-928 MHz band, and a personal digital service in the six-meter band.

General Electric spent millions on PRCS in the 1980s, but pulled out of the business just before the FCC ruled on PRCS spectrum. (Some PRCS radios -- known as "CarFone" -- are believed to still be on the air illegally. They are like a private cellular phone system.)

PRCS and the other ideas never received official spectrum allocation. But after Tandy Corporation's Radio Shack division petitioned the FCC in 1994 to create a short-distance Family Radio Service on frequencies it believed were underutilized, the FCC moved promptly to authorize it.

The FCC likes to see equipment manufacturers eager to make radios for a proposed service. Besides Radio Shack, other industry biggies weighed in such as Cobra, Uniden and Motorola (probably the single most influential corporation at the FCC). They told the Commission they want to release products into the FRS band as soon as possible.

GMRS licensees had been arguing in favor of a new personal radio service for the public since the 1970s. The one thing they had been unable to deliver, however, was manufacturers willing to make products.

They were not thrilled by Radio Shack's insistence that FRS be placed in the GMRS band, including the 467 MHz channels the FCC had, only a few years before, withheld from allocation due to Commission concern about interference to GMRS repeaters.

There are about 4,000 GMRS repeaters nationwide, most of them operated by not-for-profit organizations, communica-

tions teams and individuals. Often a group of families will pool resources and put up a GMRS repeater for their use. Some repeaters are used by businesses, holdovers from past years when commercial entities could obtain GMRS licenses. Friction between commercial and personal users used to dominate GMRS; it continues to be a problem in some geographic areas.

GMRS licensees feared that, far from being used by hunters and campers as the FCC portrayed it, FRS would turn out to be mostly used by businesses who historically have cared little for sharing radio channels. They believed that FRS would interfere with their repeaters and bring unlicensed CB-style chaos to the band.

Some 58 of the 73 comments in the FRS proceeding objected to FRS, at least as it was proposed by the FCC. The Commission dismissed these concerns. "The comments overwhelmingly support establishing the FRS," the FCC said on May 15. "The FRS is a low power (ERP is 0.500 W - F3E) FM service such that the range of any particular transmitter is small as compared to the more wide area nature of GMRS."

The Commission declined to use technical standards to inhibit the connection of external packet data and repeater controllers. The FRS operator rules prohibit such violations, but manufacturers need not inform purchasers of FRS rules. There is little realistic possibility of enforcement anyway, with the FCC pulling back from local monitoring and enforcement.

FRS antennas must be permanently fixed to the FRS radio. There will be no external RF connector. This should frustrate those who would attach amplifiers or external antennas. Radio Shack has stated that it expects to have one or two models of FRS radio available for Christmas or the first quarter of 1997.

Essentials of the Four FRS Rules:

- **FRS Rule 1 - Eligibility and responsibility.** Anyone of any age may use FRS unless they represent a foreign government. No license will be issued. The operator is responsible for all communications; must share each channel with other users; and may not claim any channel for private or exclusive use.
- **FRS Rule 2 - Authorized locations.** If the operator complies with FRS rules, he/she may operate FRS anywhere in the FCC's jurisdiction.
- **FRS Rule 3 - Types of communications.** FRS may transmit two-way voice communications and one-way messages to establish communications, send an emergency message, provide traveler assistance, make a voice page, or conduct a brief test. (Communication with GMRS users is apparently allowed.)
- **FRS Rule 4 - FRS units.** Only FCC-certified FRS radios may be used. No internal modification is allowed. Nothing may be attached to the FRS unit that was not FCC certified as part of that unit. Internal modification or external, non-certified attachments to the FRS radio cancel the FCC certification of the radio and void everyone's authority to operate it.

More information and the full text of the FRS Rules are available on the FRS Web Page operated by Bennett Kobb, KC5CW, at <http://home.navisoft.com/nspl/frs.html>.

Family Radio Service - Channel No. (MHz)

1. 462.5625	2. 462.5875	3. 462.6125
4. 462.6375	5. 462.6625	6. 462.6875
7. 462.7125	8. 467.5625	9. 467.5875
10. 467.6125	11. 467.6375	12. 467.6625
13. 467.6875	14. 467.7125	